Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/09/01 : CIA-RDP80-00809A000600060181-5

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 14 July 1954

SUBJECT Higher Education in the USSR

NO. OF PAGES 3

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

25X1

DATE ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

DATE OF I

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION AFFECTING THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THIS REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

1. The government of the USSR pays the greater part of its attention to the number and quality of specialists turned out by its educational system. It is possible that in the immigrant press there appear occasional reproaches to the Soviet Government in this connection. These are purely propaganda. However, it is necessary to look at these reproaches very critically, even though in the early years of the Soviet power there were some absurdities in the training of specialists; beginning from 1932-1933 the government began to turn its attention exclusively to this phase of education and, in particular, to the higher levels of special education. From this period until 1939, in the USSR great possibilities were presented to the majority of the population for higher education. The basic requirement for entrance into institutions of higher education was that the candidate for entrance have an adequate general education. In several of the institutions of higher education as, for example, those of the Merchant Fleet, candidates for entrance were also required to be politically reliable.

2. From the autumn of 1939, there began to be restrictions for the entrance into institutions of higher learning. The first such restriction was presented by the changing of the military draft law. This change was made during the fourth irregular session of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR held on 1 Sep 39. The change in the military draft law boils down to the following: All citizens of the USSR who have concluded middle school or corresponding educational institutions and who will reach their 18th birthday during the year of conscription into the Army (from 1 January to 31 December) and who are fit for military service must serve in the Armed Forces. All students studying

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

State | AV | DISTRIBUTION

25X1

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/09/01 : CIA-RDP80-00809A000600060181-5

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/09/01 : CIA-RDP80-00809A000600060181-5

25X1

in the middle schools or corresponding educational institutions who shall reach their 17th birthday before 1 January are obliged to appear in the rayon Military Commissariat nearest their place of residence, and register for the draft. Thus, by means of this law, the government greatly cut down on the opportunities for young people to enter institutions of higher learning. Children usually enter the middle school at the age of eight years. In order to receive the right to take the entrance examination for an institution of higher learning, it is necessary to have a certificate of completion of the middle school (ten year) or of a corresponding educational institution. Most students finish middle school when they reach their 18th year which, under the new draft law, means that they are eligible for military service. Obviously, they could not enter an institution of higher learning. They first had to serve their term of conscription. After military service there are very, very few people who go to institutions of higher learning. In connection with this, 25X1
it is necessary to point out the following facts. On 1 Sep 38, 25X1
the first course of the Marine Engineering Faculty of the Leningrad Institute for Water-Transport Engineers

Up to this time the Institute, as had other higher educational institutions, received the normal quota of students for entrance into the first course. In about the middle of September, after the issuing of the afore-mentioned draft law, the majority of students in the first courses of all institutes 25X1
were called up for military service. 25X1
In the first courses there remained only women, elderly men, and individuals who were deferred from the draft for physical defects. Women didn't enter the Marine Engineering and Navigational Faculties of the Leningrad Institute, and the physical requirements for entrance were very strict. Therefore, after the new draft law came out, there were about 10 or 12 over-age men left in the first courses of these two faculties in the Institute. Very many students from the different courses of the Institutes were taken into the Army as "volunteers" in the end of 1939, when the war began with Finland.

3. The following very serious restriction on the right to receive a higher education was made by the government in 1940. On 2 Oct 40, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR issued a law "on governmental labor reserves." Among other things, the law made the following changes.

(a) The abolition of scholarships to students in institutions of higher learning. Scholarships were to be given only to those students who had exceptional grades in all subjects. Later on, in order to receive a scholarship, the student had to have at least two-thirds excellent grades in major subjects, and one-third good grades in minor subjects. The reason for the lowering of these standards was the mass migration of students out of the Institutes, after the law of 2 Oct 40 was issued.

(b) The introduction of tuition fees for studying in higher educational institutions and in the 8th, 9th, and 10th classes of the middle school. The cost was set as follows:

(1) In Moscow, Leningrad, and capitals of the Soviet republics, 400 rubles a year.

(2) In other cities, 300 rubles a year.

4. Obviously, these restrictions greatly decreased the possibility of receiving higher education for the average worker. 25X1
this policy of the government met with rather serious opposition (even though it was undercover) from the directors of various ministries. In the

25X1

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/09/01 : CIA-RDP80-00809A000600060181-5

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/09/01 : CIA-RDP80-00809A000600060181-5

25X1

USSR the majority of higher technical educational institutions come under the various ministries. The directors of ministries all try to have as many specialists with higher education as possible. And so, insofar as possible, they try by various means to make it easier for their students to receive scholarships. At the present time, in several faculties of the institutes it is sufficient to have "average" grades in all subjects, in order to receive a scholarship.

5. Although at the present time conditions for entrance and study in the higher educational institutions in the USSR are more difficult than they were before 1939, the number of students is still very significant. In 1953 in the USSR there were more than 800 higher educational institutions, in which were enrolled 1,434,000 students. In 1953, 400,000 new students were accepted into the first courses of these institutions. In 1953, more than 200,000 people graduated from institutes.

6. In the pre-World War II school year in the USSR (1939-1940) there were 750 institutions of higher learning, in which were enrolled 620,000 people.

7. In 1917 before the Russian Revolution, there were 96 institutions of higher learning, in which were enrolled 117,000 people.

8. The basic types of scholastic work done by students in the institutions of higher learning in the USSR are:

   (a) Attending lectures by professors and instructors.

   (b) Doing practical work in laboratories, offices, shops, clinics, etc., under the direction of professors, instructors, and assistants.

   (c) Production practice under the direction of specially-assigned directors.

9. Special attention is given in the USSR to scientific research work in the higher educational institutions. The Soviet of People's Commissars of the USSR and the TsKVKP (b) on 23 Jun 36 took measures for the improvement of scientific research work in higher educational institutions. In particular, it was provided that the directors of departments in institutions of higher learning should make an individual plan of scientific research work for every worker in the department and should work toward a systematic raising of scientific and pedagogical qualifications of the workers in the department. In 1951, there were about 65,000 professors and instructors in higher educational institutions in the Soviet Union.

10. In graduate schools in all institutions of higher learning and scientific research institutes in 1951, there were about 12,000 graduate students.

11. In 1953, in higher educational institutions there were about 8,800 student scientific groups in which were enrolled more than 182,000 students.

- end -

25X1

Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2011/09/01 : CIA-RDP80-00809A000600060181-5